

Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

DRA 204 Improvisational Acting I Effective Term: Spring/Summer 2022

Course Cover

College: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Division: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Department: Communication, Media & Theatre Arts (new)

Discipline: Drama (new)

Course Number: 204

Org Number: 11500

Full Course Title: Improvisational Acting I

Transcript Title: Improvisational Acting I

Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No

Publish in the Following: College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page

Reason for Submission: Three Year Review / Assessment Report

Change Information:

Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required.

Course description

Outcomes/Assessment

Objectives/Evaluation

Rationale: Three-Year Review/Assessment Report

Proposed Start Semester: Winter 2022

Course Description: In this interactive acting course, students will be introduced to the art of developing and performing scenes without a previously written script. Through theatre games, improvised exercises and performances, students will learn and build upon the tenets and best practices of short and long-form theatrical improvisation. This class explores how to quiet the inner critic, access one's most imaginative impulses, and create inspired, collaborative performances. These skills apply to stage and film acting. The title of this course was previously Improvisational Acting.

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: Instructor: 45 Student: 45

Lab: Instructor: 0 Student: 0

Clinical: Instructor: 0 Student: 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 45 Student: 45

Repeatable for Credit: NO

Grading Methods: Letter Grades

Audit

Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math

No Level Required

Requisites

General Education

Request Course Transfer

Proposed For:

Eastern Michigan University
Ferris State University
Grand Valley State University
Jackson Community College
Kendall School of Design (Ferris)
Lawrence Tech
Michigan State University
Oakland University
University of Detroit - Mercy
University of Michigan
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University
College for Creative Studies
Central Michigan University

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate the establishment of the Base Reality/Platform (“who”, “what” and “where”) of an improvisational scene in a performance setting using a fundamental approach to listening and responding truthfully in the imaginary circumstances.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Video documentation of outcome-related student performances
Assessment Date: Winter 2024
Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
Course section(s)/other population: All
Number students to be assessed: A random sample of 50% of all students
How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric
Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 75% or higher on the total possible score for the outcome-related rubric areas.
Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

2. Demonstrate the development of Character in an improvisational scene in a performance setting using a fundamental approach to establishing a Character Point of View (POV).

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Video documentation of outcome-related student performances
Assessment Date: Winter 2024
Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
Course section(s)/other population: All
Number students to be assessed: A random sample of 50% of all students
How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric
Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 75% or higher on the total possible score for the outcome-related rubric areas.
Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

3. Demonstrate fundamental vocal and physical performance choices consistent with the established Base Reality/Platform and the Character Point of View (POV).

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Video documentation of outcome-related student performances

Assessment Date: Winter 2024

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All

Number students to be assessed: A random sample of 50% of all students

How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of the students will score 75% or higher on the total possible score for the outcome-related rubric areas.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

Course Objectives

1. Practice the skill of listening in exercises focusing on behaving truthfully in the imaginary circumstance, and enhancing trust within the group.
2. Demonstrate the discovery of the “what” of the scene (what is going on between the characters) through listening and responding truthfully to leads and offers.
3. Demonstrate the discovery of the "where" of the scene (where the characters are located/the setting) through listening and responding truthfully to leads and offers.
4. Practice developing the “what” of the scene (what is going on between the characters) by scaffolding information that is offered in the scene (“if this is true, what else is true?”).
5. Practice developing escalation of the “what” of the scene (what is going on between the characters) to heighten the circumstances.
6. Practice the discovery of Character Point of View (POV) in the scene through listening and responding truthfully to leads and offers.
7. Practice the development of Character POV in the scene through “saying yes...and” (accepting) to leads and offers.
8. Practice the discovery of Character POV in the scene through “entering full” (as opposed to neutral).
9. Practice the development of Character POV in the scene through responding to leads and offers related to “status” (who has higher/lower status).
10. Practice the development of Character POV in the scene through “leaning in” (accepting and heightening) to leads and offers.
11. Practice using vocal performance choices that are consistent with the “who” of the scene and the developed Character POV.
12. Practice using vocal performance choices that are consistent with the “what” of the scene and the developed Character POV.
13. Practice using vocal performance choices that are consistent with the "where" of the scene and the developed Character POV.
14. Practice using physical performance choices that are consistent with the “who” of the scene and the developed Character POV.
15. Practice using physical performance choices that are consistent with the “what” of the scene and the developed Character POV.
16. Practice using physical performance choices that are consistent with the “where” of the scene and the developed Character POV.

New Resources for Course

Course Textbooks/Resources

Textbooks
Manuals
Periodicals
Software

Equipment/Facilities

Other: Must be in LA 175 The College Theatre Lab(course activities require a theatre/stage acting space)

<u>Reviewer</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Date</u>
Faculty Preparer: <i>Tracy Jaffe</i>	<i>Faculty Preparer</i>	<i>Aug 16, 2021</i>
Department Chair/Area Director: <i>Allison Fournier</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Aug 18, 2021</i>
Dean: <i>Scott Britten</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Aug 19, 2021</i>
Curriculum Committee Chair: <i>Randy Van Wagnen</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Dec 07, 2021</i>
Assessment Committee Chair: <i>Shawn Deron</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Dec 08, 2021</i>
Vice President for Instruction: <i>Kimberly Hurns</i>	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Dec 08, 2021</i>

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Course Cover

Division: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Department: Communication, Media & Theatre Arts (new)

Discipline: Drama (new)

Course Number: 204

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Full Course Title: Improvisational Acting

Transcript Title: Improvisational Acting

Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No

Publish in the Following: College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page

Reason for Submission: Course Change

Change Information:

Consultation with all departments affected by this course is required.

Pre-requisite, co-requisite, or enrollment restrictions

Rationale: Minor change: Special removal of the DRA 152 Pre-req for the purpose of a) adding it as an elective for the Broadcast Arts Media Associates Degree and Broadcast Arts Media Certificate and b) developing this course as a viable entry course in the DRA discipline. The Broadcast Arts Certificate will emphasize improvisational skills as an asset to Broadcast Arts training. Additionally, we are working to expand enrollments in DRA204 with outreach to include professionals and non-traditional students; with this goal in mind we are exploring options such as the Executive Weekend intensive model. We believe removing the DRA152 pre-req will welcome more students who otherwise would be turned away and allow DRA204 to serve as an entry into DRA studies. We are asking that a special consideration be made to remove this pre-req asap for the updating of the Broadcast Arts Media degree and certificate. I will assess this course and submit a full syllabus update for Fall 2021.

Proposed Start Semester: Spring/Summer 2021

Course Description: In this interactive acting course, students will be introduced to the art of performing without a script. Various forms of impromptu exercises and traditional acting games are explored to enhance skills in spontaneity, comic timing, concentration, verbal and non-verbal expression, characterization and group cooperation. These skills apply to stage and film acting. Students will practice developing improvisational sketches and prepare to perform before an audience.

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: Instructor: 45 Student: 45

Lab: Instructor: 0 Student: 0

Clinical: Instructor: 0 Student: 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 45 Student: 45

Repeatable for Credit: NO

Grading Methods: Letter Grades

Audit

Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math

No Level Required

Requisites

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Request Course Transfer

Proposed For:

Eastern Michigan University
Ferris State University
Grand Valley State University
Jackson Community College
Kendall School of Design (Ferris)
Lawrence Tech
Michigan State University
Oakland University
University of Detroit - Mercy
University of Michigan
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Apply improvisational acting skills in a performance setting with attention to performance choices based on: a) listening and behaving truthfully in the imaginary circumstance, b) acceptance (as opposed to denial), c) physical awareness and staging effectiveness, d) vocal delivery effectiveness.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Departmental review of video documentation of performance

Assessment Date: Winter 2021

Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years

Course section(s)/other population: All

Number students to be assessed: All

How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric

Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of all students must score 70% (7 out of 10) or greater on each category of the learning outcome.

Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

Course Objectives

1. Practice the skill of listening in exercises focusing on behaving truthfully in the imaginary circumstance, and enhancing trust within the group.
2. Practice spontaneously making performance choices based on character development.
3. Practice the skill of concentration (focus) in exercises focusing on maintaining illusion.
4. Practice spontaneously making performance choices based on encountering obstacles and the tactics employed to resolve conflict.
5. Practice the skill of acceptance (as opposed to denial) in exercises focusing on enhancing plot and character development.
6. Practice spontaneously making performance choices as they relate to timing and vocal delivery effectiveness.
7. Practice spontaneously making performance choices as they relate to appropriate "leading" or "following" with acting partners.
8. Practice developing physical staging in small and large group exercises.

9. Practice spontaneously communicating character through body awareness (non-verbal performance choices).
10. Practice spontaneously making performance choices as they relate to timing and vocal delivery effectiveness.

New Resources for Course

Course Textbooks/Resources

Textbooks
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Periodicals
Software

Equipment/Facilities

Other: Must be in LA 175 The College Theatre (requires a large theatre/stage acting space)

<u>Reviewer</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Date</u>
Faculty Preparer: <i>Tracy Jaffe</i>	<i>Faculty Preparer</i>	<i>Jan 08, 2021</i>
Department Chair/Area Director: <i>Allison Fournier</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Jan 13, 2021</i>
Dean: <i>Scott Britten</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Jan 28, 2021</i>
Curriculum Committee Chair: <i>Lisa Veasey</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Feb 12, 2021</i>
Assessment Committee Chair: <i>Shawn Deron</i>	<i>Recommend Approval</i>	<i>Feb 12, 2021</i>
Vice President for Instruction: <i>Kimberly Hurns</i>	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Feb 15, 2021</i>